



CITY IS SHROUDED IN SHEET OF ICE

Wires and Trees Are Prostrated.

BUSINESS SUFFERS HEAVILY

Car Service Paralyzed and the Sidewalks Made Perilous.

FIRST "SILVER THAW" HERE

Street Lights Not Burning. Half the Telephones Are Out of Order and General Demoralization Everywhere.

ESTIMATE OF THE DAMAGE. Pacific States Tel. & Tel. Co. \$100,000. Portland Gen. Electric Co. 15,000. Portland Railway Co. 10,000. Postal Telegraph Cable Co. 2,000. Western Union Tel. Co. 2,000.

Rain that became ice almost the instant it fell yesterday caused financial loss in Portland and vicinity amounting to several hundred thousands of dollars and demoralized electrical power and street railway service.

The "silver thaw" began shortly after midnight yesterday morning. Sleet first began to fall, which later changed to rain.

The greatest portion of the damage was done on the East Side, where miles of telephone poles were prostrated, causing the wires to be hopelessly tangled.

Service on all the carlines crossing the Steel and Burnside bridges was discontinued, and but irregular service was given east of East Sixth street on lines

WORK OF THE "SILVER THAW." Sum total of the "silver thaw" of yesterday: Street railway system demoralized, cars on all the lines running across the Burnside, Steel and Morrison street bridges being stopped.

The O. W. P. cars were partially tied up in the morning and afternoon, but at night the lines were cleared. The West Side fared a trifle better and incandescent lights burned last night down town, but the street lights were out.

lighting service by tonight, but they make no promises.

Horses Killed by Live Wires. Several horses were killed and many pedestrians had narrow escapes from death from the live wires, which covered the streets and hung down over the sidewalks.

The pupils of most of the schools on the East Side were demoralized the day at noon as it was thought that the children might be injured while on their way to school buildings.

The "silver thaw" was its worst yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock and about 7 o'clock the rain ceased to fall and the ice began to melt very slowly.

The danger from falling trees. As the rain continued, and the temperature was still at freezing point, the ice grew heavier and heavier.

Early in the morning the cars were stopped on all the lines, the current being grounded by telephones wires falling across the power wires and by broken limbs of trees.

Out of the 22,500 telephones of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company's system about 15,000 were in working order last night.

Company's system about 15,000 were in working order last night. Ice accumulated on the wires that was not melted more rapidly than on those that were protected.

Thousands of shade trees in Portland damaged, hundreds of them to such an extent that they will have to be cut down. Some of them torn out by their roots.

Incandescent lights burned last night down town, but the street lights were out. Care ran on all the lines on irregular schedules and gave very little better than no service at all.

Indications are that the weather will moderate and thaw the ice that weighs down the wires. It is hoped to resume regular service today on all the street railway lines.

FAMINE IS WORST IN FORTY YEARS

China Unable to Feed Her Millions.

AMERICA ADVISED TO GIVE AID

Relief Would Do Much to Remove Ill Feeling.

UNREST PERVADES EMPIRE

Parents Sell Children, Brigandage and Robbery Are Rife and Rebellion Occupies Most of Army.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Mail reports from American Consul officers in China which reached the State Department today regarding the famine and resulting conditions further confirm the stories of suffering and hardship.

The Chinese officials, he says upon information given him by the Viceroy, admit their inability to cope with the situation. The government is trying to help the starving people to keep their cattle and to this end is taking their oxen and mules in pawn for two taels each.

The report of Mr. Rogers is accompanied by a statement by Dr. Henry M. Woods of the Southern Presbyterian mission at Hwal Ain Fu, who estimates that 10,000,000 people are affected by the famine.

Mr. Rogers declared that the influence of the famine conditions upon current affairs can now be plainly seen in the unrest and discontent of the people.

Parents sell children, brigandage and robbery are rife and rebellion occupies most of the army. Dangerous times ahead.

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unrest and discontent of the people. From many places comes reports of riots of greater or less degree.

AUTOS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Great Garage Burned, Causing Loss of \$750,000.

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—A loss roughly estimated at \$750,000 resulted from a fire that started before midnight and burned out the garage of the New York Transportation Company at Eighth avenue and West Forty-ninth street.

Keiso Boom Repaired.

KEISO, Wash., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—The Metcalf Company's new boom is rapidly nearing completion and will be ready to receive logs and bolts within a day or two.

CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 32 degrees; minimum, 23 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain or snow, slightly warmer; southeasterly winds. Foreign. Terrible mine explosions in Germany and France. Page 1.

GAS SLAUGHTERS GERMAN MINERS

Second Explosion Kills Many Rescuers.

DEATH LIST MAY REACH 300

Survivors Terribly Crushed by Force of Shock.

RESCUE WORK SUSPENDED

Many Have Bones Broken by Being Hurled Against Walls—Another Awful Explosion in Courrières District of France.

SAARBRUECKEN, Jan. 28.—A tremendous explosion occurred this morning in the Reden coal mine at St. John-on-Saar, opposite Saarbruecken, and caused the walls of the galleries by the force of the explosion.

Immediately after the explosion rescue workers were hurried from all the adjacent mines and boldly entered the Reden shaft in great numbers.

After all the rescuers had reached daylight, according to one version, a second terrible detonation was heard underneath.

STRONG CHURCH WESLEY FOUNDED

Humble Beginnings of Methodist Body.

REVIVAL OF TRUE RELIGION

Protest of Wesleys Against Oxford's Evil Life.

PROGRESS IN AMERICA

Hardy Circuit-Riders Carried Gospel to Frontier Settlements.

Prominent Part of Women in Building Up Church.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN. WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—(Special Correspondence.)—"When John Wesley died," said Spurgeon, "he left behind him two silver spoons, a teapot and the great Methodist Church."

SPORT OF BAD FORTUNE

BRET HARTE'S DAUGHTER INMATE OF POORHOUSE.

Deserted by Husband and Falling Victim of Readings of Father's Works, Mrs. Steele Is Pauper.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—Mrs. Jessamy Steele, daughter of Bret Harte, author of "The Luck of Roaring Camp" and other Western stories, is an inmate of the poorhouse here, having been removed from one of the leading hotels a few days ago.

Mrs. Steele had been ill for several months and was unable to pay her account at the hotel.

DEFICE WAS PILORIED for expressing himself too freely in print, and whipping posts, stocks, prisons and the gallows on "Yourn Hill" had each a chapter of persecutions to record against those who dared express religious thought in any but the prescribed channels.



SCENE AT TWENTIETH AND LOVEJOY STREETS SHOWING ROW OF FALLEN TELEPHONE POLES

THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN LOOKING EAST ON LOVEJOY STREET. THE TELEPHONE WIRES ARE BELOW, THE POWER WIRES ABOVE ARE UNINJURED, ALTHOUGH ONE OF THE POLES IS AWRY.

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